

GEORGIA

During early August, the tropical upper tropospheric trough (TUTT) remained to the north of and in close proximity to the monsoon trough in the South China Sea. As a result, Georgia's formation and subsequent development cannot be easily attributed to the monsoon trough or the TUTT independently, but more as an interaction between the two. Sadler (1973) suggests that westward moving cells in the TUTT provide an upper level westerly outflow channel which enhances development of disturbances in the monsoon trough. This type of influence was apparent during the development of Georgia.

Georgia reached minimum tropical storm intensity on 9 August as she transited on a westsouthwest course across the South China Sea at a moderate speed. She passed within 170nm of Hong Kong late on the 9th. Maximum sustained winds experienced at Hong Kong were 41 knots with a peak gust of

73 knots. Georgia reached typhoon intensity on 10 August (Figure 4-11).

Maintaining her westerly track at 8 knots until early on the 11th, Georgia then turned north in response to a weakness in the high cell over eastern China. She made landfall north of Hainan Island on 12 August and dissipated over China. Georgia was the third tropical cyclone originating in the South China Sea to reach typhoon intensity in 1973.

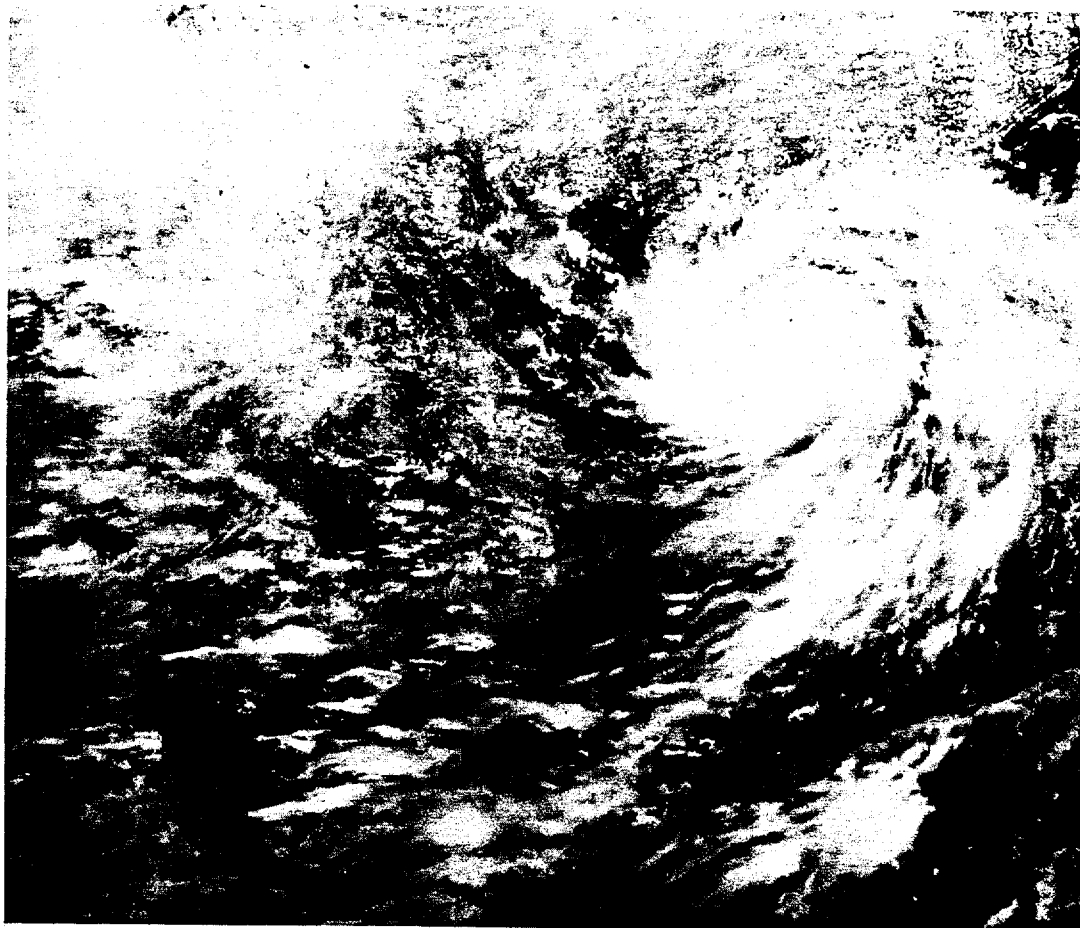


FIGURE 4-11. Typhoon Georgia in the South China Sea 140 nm east of Hainan Island, 10 August 1973, 0500 GMT. [DMSP imagery]